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In Memoriam

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JOHN L. THOMPSON

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This memorial, which was prepared by the desire and under the supervision of Mrs. Thompson, has been published and is now presented by her Executor on behalf of the surviving members of the family.

NORMAN WILLIAMS.

Chicago, Oct. 1, 1890.

A Memorial

OF

JOHN LEVERETT THOMPSON

OF

CHICAGO, ILL.

Chicago:
The Craig Press.
1890

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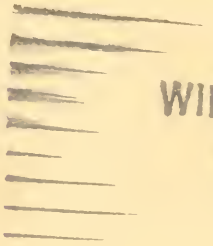
THIS Memorial of General J. L. Thompson is published with the hope that it may be of interest both to the soldiers who fought with him in the war, and to the friends and associates of his later life. It is thought that the resolutions and other public tributes to his memory, dealing largely with the years since the war, may be both supplemented and explained by a short biographical sketch, in which, as far as possible, the facts have been allowed to speak for themselves.



GIFT
WINFRED OVER
DEC. 13, 1951

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JOHN LEVERETT THOMPSON was born February 2nd, 1835, at Plymouth, N. H. He died January 31st, 1888, at Chicago, Ill. His father was William Coombs Thompson (Dartmouth College, 1820), a well known New Hampshire lawyer. His paternal grandfather was Hon. Thomas W. Thompson (Harvard College, 1786), of Salisbury, N. H., Speaker of the House of Representatives of New Hampshire, and afterwards United States senator from that state.

His mother was Martha Higginson Leverett, a lineal descendant of that John Leverett who was a major in Cromwell's army during the Parliamentary wars, and who afterwards, having turned to New England, became Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

The names of Chief Justice Sewall, of Massachusetts, and Stephen Salisbury, well known among the Boston merchants of his day, are also found in the line of his ancestry.

John Leverett Thompson spent his boyhood in the beautiful old town where he was born, and to which, during the later years of his life, he delighted to return. As a child, he was of an amiable, happy disposition, and his manly strength of character was accompanied by the quietest and most unpretentious manners. He was fond of all athletic sports, and especially was an ardent lover of horses. His natural inclination, coupled with a zeal to emulate the performances of the circus riders who occasionally visited the place, led him to become a most accomplished horseman, and this taste and training naturally influenced him toward the cavalry service, in which he spent nearly all his army life.

He was fitted for college at the Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, New Hampshire, and was admitted to Dartmouth College in 1852, at the age of seventeen years. At the end of his sophomore year, however, he left Dartmouth and entered the junior class of Williams College, where he remained one

year. Both these colleges afterward conferred upon him the Master's degree—Dartmouth in 1867, and Williams in 1875.

In 1855, he first entered upon his legal studies in the office of the late Hon. F. H. Dewey, at Worcester, Massachusetts, whither his father had removed in 1852. He then attended the Law School at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., for a short time, and in 1856, entered the Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1858. Having been admitted in the fall of this year to the Worcester County Bar, instead of beginning at once the practice of law, he spent the next two years abroad, pursuing his studies in the Universities of Berlin, Munich and Paris. In 1860 he returned to this country, and after a few months spent at his father's house in Worcester, he left his New England home for the West, and settled in Chicago. Even now, however, he did not begin the practice of his profession, but entered the office of Scammon, McCagg & Fuller, as clerk and student. He was thus engaged at the breaking out of the war, when, abandoning his studies, he was among the first to respond to Lincoln's proclamation calling for volunteers

to save the Union. He enlisted as a private April 19th, 1861, in Battery A, First Illinois Light Artillery, U. S. Volunteers.

This step was taken without asking advice of any one. When Mr. E. B. McCagg, of the law firm in whose office he was studying, remonstrated with him, saying: "Thompson, you are too good a man to enlist as a private," he replied: "If I am a good man I shall make a good private." He remained in the artillery service only about three months, his regiment being stationed at or near Cairo. His health having completely broken down, he was obliged to resign July 16th, 1861. During this period, it is believed that he saw no actual service in the field. He had, however, been promoted to the grade of sergeant. When told, soon after his resignation, that his squad had been the best drilled in the Battery, he is reported to have said: "Well, I don't know that, I don't know that. I got on very well drilling my men as long as I could stand, but when I hadn't the strength to do that, and had to sit on a log, the drilling wasn't so well done."

After a short time spent in Chicago, Thompson

returned east to Worcester, where he remained several months with his family for the purpose of recovering his health. Immediately on its restoration, he again entered the army; this time from his native state of New Hampshire, being commissioned October 19, 1861, by Governor Barry, first lieutenant in Company K, of a battalion of cavalry raised for the First New England Regiment. This Regiment was made up of one New Hampshire and two Rhode Island battalions, and its name was very early changed to the First Rhode Island Cavalry. For the first few months, Robert B. Lawton, of Newport, R. I., was colonel, but he was soon succeeded by Alfred N. Duffie, of Staten Island, N. Y. On the resignation of the latter to become a brigadier general of volunteers, June 24th, 1863, Thompson succeeded him as colonel of the regiment, and remained its commander until March 24th, 1864. His previous promotions had been, captain, December 3, 1861; major, August 4, 1862; lieutenant-colonel, August 15, 1862.

The regiment went to Washington in the early spring of 1862, and was afterward attached to

McDowell's forces at Fredericksburg, forming a portion of the Second Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

General Thompson's military career was an exceedingly active one. His regiment took prominent part in the battles of Groveton, Second Bull Run, Port Royal, Cedar Mountain, Chantilly, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. These battles were fought under Generals McDowell, Pope, Burnside and Hooker. He fought at Bristoe Station and at Auburn under Meade, and after the Battle of Gettysburg his command captured a portion of the rear guard of Lee's army. He also took part in the raids made under Generals Stoneman and Wilson. Later in the war he served under Sheridan in the valley of the Shenandoah and participated in the victories of Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek.

During the first two or three years of the war, the life led by the cavalryman was peculiarly hazardous. He was employed extensively for picket and skirmish duty, and to him it was entrusted to lead the van or guard the rear of moving armies. In great battles, to be sure, he seldom took a prominent

part, but the service in which he was daily engaged was most perilous, exposing him at all times to dangers least expected. It was not till later in the war that the value of a large and united force of cavalry as a distinct arm of the service became fully understood.

In June, 1863, while engaged in the kind of service just described, the greater part of the First Rhode Island Cavalry, through the blunder of some superior officer, was surrounded at Middleburg, Va., by a large force of hostile cavalry, infantry and artillery, and nearly the whole command was captured or cut to pieces. Among the few who escaped was Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, who, with eighteen men, fought his way over the mountains to the Union lines.

Chaplain Dennison, the historian of the First Rhode Island Cavalry, in his interesting volume, "Sabres and Spurs," gives credit to Thompson for a high degree of courage and coolness in the presence of danger. When, on the resignation of Colonel Duffie, he came to the full command, Chaplain Dennison writes:

"Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson was equal to his

work. We were confident we had the man and soldier at our head able to direct and lead us on in any emergency."

In regard to a stubborn repulse of a spirited charge of Stuart's Cavalry, he writes on another occasion:

"By Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson's cool and brave conduct, Stuart was finally foiled and turned back, leaving some dead for us to bury, and some prisoners to care for, as an offset for our captured men."

On March 24, 1864, Colonel Thompson resigned the command of the First Rhode Island Cavalry to become colonel of a regiment wholly made up from his native state—the First New Hampshire Cavalry. He was now serving in the Third Division Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Shenandoah under Sheridan.

At the battle of Waynesboro, in March, 1865, his regiment especially distinguished itself, being the first to enter the rebel breastworks and reach their artillery. As a mark of General Sheridan's appreciation, Colonel Thompson's command was honored with the responsibility of escorting down the valley to Winchester, a distance of one hundred miles, the

eighteen hundred prisoners who had been captured from Early in the battle. Colonel Thompson, in addition to his own New Hampshire regiment, selected for this perilous duty his old Rhode Island cavaliers, on whom he knew he could depend in any emergency. With this guard of little more than eight hundred men, he successfully fought his way to Winchester, in spite of every obstacle. At every ford he was attacked by the enemy in force, under General Rosser, but although encumbered by so many prisoners, he beat back his opponents at every point, and at last, having endured the greatest hardships, he delivered to the authorities at Winchester, beside the prisoners he had receipted for at the commencement of the march, twenty-five more, whom he had captured from General Rosser on the way.

The following extract from the Richmond *Examiner* will explain what hopes were built by the Confederates upon the apparent impossibility of the task thus accomplished:

"We have some good news from the valley which it would not be prudent to give in detail at this time. We may say, however, that it is reported that

McNeill, Rosser and Mosby have surrounded the guard who are conducting to Winchester the prisoners taken of Early, and there was a good prospect of their not only recapturing our prisoners, but also of gobbling up the Yankee guard. We shall probably hear of the result of this movement in a day or two."

In recognition of this exploit, Colonel Thompson was made a Brevet Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865, at the request of General Sheridan, "for distinguished and meritorious service."

Upon the close of the war, General Thompson was mustered out of the service, July 15, 1865. In spite of the activity of his military life and the constant perils to which he was exposed, there is no record of his ever being wounded in battle. Two addresses to his soldiers, made at this time, are interesting because characteristic of him. On the disbandment of his regiment at Concord, New Hampshire, he issued the following:

"HEADQUARTERS 1st N. H. CAVALRY,
CONCORD, N. H., JULY 21, 1865.

"SOLDIERS:—The time has arrived when our connection as officers and soldiers is to cease. Four years ago you were all citizens. You are now to be citizens again.

"You have performed your part well as soldiers. It is not necessary to mention the occasions when you have shown your valor. You have participated in every campaign in Virginia, from the first charge at Front Royal to the last charge at Waynesboro and the surrender of the Confederate Army, and on every field you have gained credit for yourselves and honor for the state which sent you forth, and whose name you have borne.

"To officers and men I extend my thanks for the uniform confidence and respect which has been shown to me as your commanding officer. It is by *your* exertions alone that the regiment has won the esteem of our superior officers and the confidence of the army with which we have been associated.

"I can only express the hope that you may become honored citizens of the country whose government you have assisted to maintain, and that you may secure all the success and happiness which I wish and which you so richly deserve.

"JOHN L. THOMPSON,
Colonel Commanding Regiment."

In reply to an address by Commissary Sergeant Charles Gillis, of Hillsborough, who presented to him, in the name of the First New Hampshire Cavalry, a handsome silver service, General Thompson further said:

"SOLDIERS:—I receive with pleasure this token of

regard from the enlisted men of this command. I shall keep it as long as I live, and shall value it not only for its richness and splendor, but more highly as a proof of your confidence and good-will. We have been associated for a long time, and at parting, I can sincerely say that I know of nothing of which I can complain. I should like to talk to you and tell you what I have thought at different times during our career as a regiment, when it was not proper for us to talk freely together. I have watched you always more than you think. I have seen soldiers of this command performing deeds, when they perhaps thought they were not seen, that are worthy to be recorded on the fairest page of the history of this war. And if there is any one thing for which I blame myself more than another, it is that I have failed to see that you have always received proper credit for what you did. But it would take too long to tell it, and I know that you are anxious to receive your pay and go to your homes. You go with my warmest wishes for your welfare, and it will be a happy moment for me if I can ever, under any circumstances, render you any assistance. Your friends at home will welcome you gladly. There are others, however, friends of the comrades whom you have buried in Virginia, to whom your coming will bring sorrow rather than joy. Let them have your deepest sympathy, for the sake of the dangers and hardships you have endured together. The friends of your fallen comrades will always have

a peculiar regard for you. Let it be your endeavor to comfort and cheer them.

"I am grateful to you, sergeant, for your kind expressions. I thank you and those you represent for your magnificent gift. You may be assured I shall treasure it, and it will always remind me that while I have endeavored to do my duty, I have at the same time retained a portion of your regard."

In 1866, General Thompson was tendered by General Sheridan the position of Field Officer in the Regular Army, as is explained by the following letter:

"HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF THE GULF,
NEW ORLEANS, LA., Aug. 25, 1866.

"COLONEL:—General Grant having directed me to select twelve officers from the volunteer force, who served with distinction under my command, to fill the position of field officers in the regular army, I have the honor to inform you that your name has been forwarded.

"Should you not desire the appointment, please notify Bvt. Major Gen. J. A. Rawlins, Chief of Staff.

I am, Colonel, Very respectfully,
"Your ob'dt servant,
"P. H. SHERIDAN,
"Major Gen'l U. S. A.

"Col. J. L. THOMPSON,
Late 1st N. H. Cavalry."

This appointment was declined. Meanwhile, in

the fall of 1865, he had returned to Chicago, and resumed his old place as a student and clerk in the office of Scammon, McCagg & Fuller. In the spring of 1866, however, he at last began the practice of the law, with Norman Williams, Esq., an old New England friend and schoolmate, with whom in boyhood, at Meriden, he had planned some day to practice in partnership. The association thus formed was only terminated by the death of General Thompson. In professional life he early became connected with important causes, and gained the confidence and friendship of the community. His practice was large and increasing until his death.

He was actively interested, moreover, in many questions relating to the good of the community. In 1870 he was the republican candidate for the State Constitutional Convention. He served the city of Chicago as an Alderman from 1876 to 1878. In recent years he was prominently connected with the work of the Citizen's Association of Chicago, and was the president of that organization from 1883 to 1885.

General Thompson was an early and loyal mem-

ber of the Union League Club, of Chicago, and was unanimously elected president of the club, on Tuesday, January 24th, 1888, just one week before his death.

Five days earlier he had been elected president of the Dartmouth College Alumni Association of Chicago.

From the close of the war to his death he had been connected with many veteran military organizations. He was president of the Veteran Cavalry Associations of New Hampshire and of Rhode Island, and vice-commander of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, of the Commandery of the State of Illinois.

General Thompson was married at Concord, N. H., September 5th, 1866, to Laura, daughter of Samuel A. Chandler, and Susan (Emerson) Chandler, of Peacham, Vermont. Mrs. Thompson and two children, Leverett, born November 11, 1869, and Susan, born Jan. 26, 1874, survive him.*

His death was sudden, occurring at his residence in Chicago on the morning of January 31st, 1888,

* Since this sketch was prepared Mrs. Thompson has also passed away, dying peacefully on Sunday morning, Nov. 24th, 1889, after an illness of several months.

after a paralytic stroke, followed by an illness of only three days.

It may not be thought out of place to reproduce with the public utterances called forth by his death, one or two more personal expressions out of many which it has been the privilege of his family to receive.

Thus, one of his enlisted men, looking upon his remains as they lay at the residence, said: "There is the best and bravest man that ever lived." Another soldier of his old regiment says: "We all loved Gen. Thompson. As brave a man as ever drew sword in defense of our country, noble and true, is the sentiment of every veteran of the First New Hampshire Cavalry."

And a distinguished lawyer of New York, a friend of Gen. Thompson both in military and civil life, writes as follows:

"Few men have been more esteemed in life, or more regretted at its close, than he; and no one, I think, deserves more esteem or deeper regret. It is more than twenty-three years since I first met him, and the warm attachment I formed for him then

has not abated, though our opportunities for meeting have been less frequent than I could wish.

"But through this long period, that now seems so short, he has always shown the same admirable qualities that endeared him to me and to so many others when serving in the field. They were qualities that made him an admirable soldier, an admirable lawyer and an admirable and lovable man. A kind and tender heart and an unyielding love of justice are not counted by the public as the most conspicuous traits of the soldier or the lawyer. Probably they are not the strongest attributes of the most conspicuous soldiers or lawyers, but they belong to the best, and among the best was General Thompson. It seems strange that one so good, and who would have wished all the world to be in peace, should have passed his life in the professions most arduous and removed from peace. If things were all set right and if all men were like him, this would not be. But while the world is what it is, such lovers of the right must try to set things right.

"He did his share and did it well. We must wish he could have stayed longer. No doubt we shall sometime know and understand that our wishes are not the best. For myself, I grieve sincerely for his loss, and beg to assure you of a sympathy that is hard to express in words."

Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE VETERAN ASSOCIATION OF THE FIRST RHODE ISLAND CAVALRY, AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING AT ROCKY POINT, R. I., THURSDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 1888.

Whereas:—Our beloved comrade and former commander, General John L. Thompson, died in Chicago, January 31st, 1888, aged fifty-three years, greatly esteemed and honored in the profession of the law, and by all who know him:—therefore, be it

Resolved, 1st—That as the First Rhode Island Cavalry Association, having ever fondly held him as a man of superior endowments and culture; an ardent and self-sacrificing patriot; a devoted and accomplished soldier; an able and considerate officer; a prudent and gallant commander; a cool, skilful and intrepid leader; ever modest, yet heroic; one whose qualities and conduct endeared him to all his command, and justly commended him to the special regards of all military authorities, and to our national government; we are now called to place on our records our high appreciation of his character and career, and our deep sense of loss in his death—a loss personal to each one of us, and heavy to us as an association of war comrades.

Resolved, That this brief but heartfelt expression of our bereavement be spread upon our records, and also be communicated by our secretary to the afflicted family.

Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, AT ITS TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT AT CONCORD, N. H., FEBRUARY 1ST AND 2ND, 1888.

Whereas:—The Supreme Commander above, in his infinite goodness and mercy has summoned our comrade, Gen. J. L. Thompson, late of the First N. H. Cavalry, to the Grand Army above, therefore

Resolved, That in the death of our comrade we feel the irreparable loss of a brave soldier, a kind friend, one who had the interest of the soldier at heart, beloved by all who knew him.

Resolved, That the sympathy of the comrades of New Hampshire be extended to the family of our deceased comrade in this their hour of deep affliction.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased comrade and spread upon the records of this encampment.

J. H. FRENCH,
A. S. EATON,
D. D. NELSON,
IRA W. DUNTLEY,
} Committee 1st N. H. Cav. Ass'n.

In Memoriam

ADOPTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES, COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, MARCH 8TH, 1888.

In writing of the Solicitor General of England in the beginning of the nineteenth century, Lord Brougham says:

"It is fit that no occasion on which Sir Samuel Romilly is named should ever be passed over without an attempt to record the virtues and endowments of so great and so good a man for the instruction of after ages. Few persons have ever attained celebrity of name and exalted station in any country or in any age with such unsullied purity of character as this equally eminent and excellent person. His virtue was stern and inflexible, adjusted indeed rather to the rigorous standard of ancient morality than to the less ambitious and less elevated maxims of the modern code.

"He was in truth a person of the most natural and simple manners, and one in whom the kindliest charities and warmest feelings of human nature were blended in the largest measure with that firmness

and unrelaxed sincerity of principle, in almost all other men found to be little compatible with the attributes of a gentle nature and the feelings of a tender heart.

"The observer who gazes upon the character of this great man is naturally struck first of all with its most prominent feature, and that is the rare excellence which we have now marked so far above every gift of the understanding, and which throws the lustre of mere genius into the shade."

All this might be recorded of our late companion General John L. Thompson, at one time a Vice Commander. The character which in him rounded out and marked him as a citizen and lawyer is defined by the adjectives fair, true, kind, equable, earnest and firm.

But in this Commandery and in other organizations having their origin from like causes, it is well to note that these qualities developed the soldier, and in turn were brightened and enlarged by the experiences of a soldier's life.

The majority of the voters of the present day in the United States have no recollection of the war of the Rebellion drawn from personal experiences or participation. To their minds the war is presented in the form of historical statement.

To those who, in the winter of 1860-61, watched the rise of the spirit of rebellion, the vacillation of the administration, the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln,

the hesitation to supply Fort Sumter, the secession of South Carolina, the firing of the first gun, the call to arms, the events of that and four subsequent years, if at this distance of time almost a dream, are yet a dream with the vividness of reality. There was nothing then in Mr. Thompson to mark him for the field. To militia service or the pomp of parade he had shown no liking or aptitude. Quietly, reservedly, modestly, he was closing the course of study which should fit him for the practice of his chosen profession.

But he was missed, and after two days his friends, having suspicion where he might be, found him in line in the old Armory building in Chicago, standing where the present Rookery building now is. Some sapient officer had advised that men who should enlist should be kept in confinement, not appreciating that volunteers as six to one to fill the call were then ready. Thompson was in the ranks undergoing an inspection of some sort, and as the hand was given, said: "You see I have done it," — words characteristic in their brevity, and expressive of a resolution born of thoughtful purpose.

That evening he departed for Cairo, amid the cheers of a multitude on the Lake Front. There visitors found him a month or more later, corporal of a battery, calmly performing in mud and rain the duties which he had assumed—drilling and making ready. So he remained until disease overtook him,

and at or about the close of the three months' service he went to his old home in Massachusetts, whither his family had moved from New Hampshire, apparently permanently disabled, for he had never been very strong. His battery for the most part re-enlisted. His friends at Chicago joined the service under later calls, but mostly in the West.

When next heard of he had recovered and was First Lieutenant in the First Rhode Island Cavalry, formed of three battalions, one from New Hampshire, his native state, another from Massachusetts and a third from Rhode Island. The regiment entered upon active service in Virginia and was assigned to the Shenandoah.

On December 3d, 1861, Lieutenant Thompson became captain; on July 3d, 1862, major; on July 11th, lieutenant-colonel, and on January 4th, 1863, colonel. In March, 1864, he resigned to take the command of the First New Hampshire Cavalry, which honorably shared in the command of Sheridan the memorable skirmishes, battles and pursuits of that year. He was brevetted for distinguished services. To say of him that he was always ready, that he had his command in hand, that he was prudent and yet bold even to daring, that whether in the charge or in holding the fruits of victory he was equally prompt, efficient and able, is to say only what was said spontaneously by all who were with him.

One of his enlisted men said, looking upon his remains as they lay in his residence: "There is the

best and bravest man that ever lived,"—a testimonial the value and strength of which every officer knows.

Occasions like this are frequent; memories rise and thicken, but it is not permitted to lengthen or fill out the sketch. In the reports of three states are the records of his achievements.

The full measure of the man is better recognized in the outlines; and we therefore sadly, but proudly, in simple but few words, give this our tribute to the one of our number who has last passed away.

GEO. W. SMITH,
E. B. MCCAGG,
H. W. JACKSON,
Committee.

Letter

FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO.

DEAR MADAM:—At a meeting of the Dartmouth College Alumni Association of Chicago, the undersigned were appointed a committee to communicate to you and your family the fraternal sympathy that we, the Alumni of Dartmouth College, feel for you in the death of your honored husband, and to say that your bereavement is also our great loss; that we have always regarded Gen. Thompson as a man

whose unusual success in all that makes up the best of life, was due, not to fortuitous circumstances, but to his great worth of character and his rare talents; that we, in common with all who knew him, have always felt the influence of those subtle forces in his character that were born of consciousness of his strength and integrity; and in his death, the city that he has served so well in so many honored ways sustains a loss that it will continue to feel many years.

Respectfully,

C. F. Remick,
Randall H. White,
E. C. Crawford,
Committee.

In Memoriam

ADOPTED BY THE CHICAGO LITERARY CLUB,
FEBRUARY 27TH, 1888.

John Leverett Thompson was born at Plymouth, a quaint village near the White Mountains of New Hampshire, on the second day of February, 1835. He inherited from notable ancestors many of the sturdy traits of the Puritan, with advantages and opportunities for their development.

Always scholarly, he enriched a rare natural endowment by a prolonged student life in this country and continental Europe, covering a period of four-

teen years, from 1852, when he was admitted a freshman at Dartmouth College, to 1866, when he entered the practice of law in Chicago. Four of these years, which he gave to his country in the war of the Rebellion, formed an important part of his education, for his mental activity was as vigorous and conscientious in matters concerning the art of war as his exploits were daring and brilliant.

With the heritage of character and intellectual vigor, reared among rugged mountains in the atmosphere of honest thought, simple life and Christian refinement, his thorough training developed qualities in the man which remain his most enduring memorial.

Uncalculating in the courses of right, he was a conscientious man, striving to follow the dictates of duty, uninfluenced by censure or approval, and consequently was faithful in his work. He possessed a rare degree of calmness and self-control, and was never hurried to hasty judgments. He was a patient listener, and invited opinions from others, and never expressed his own until they had received mature thought. Quietly and modestly he performed his work, preserving a characteristic reticence concerning his achievements in the field, in public offices and in his profession.

The simple, lucid and forcible English employed in his legal arguments, discloses the fact that he was familiar with language, a lover of books, and a student of pure literature.

His patriotism manifested itself not only in his military career, but in his persistent desire to elevate the public service, which he gratified, quietly and without ostentation, by a generous contribution of his time and thought.

He died in the city of Chicago, on the thirty-first day of January, 1888, transmitting to his family the inheritance he received from his fathers with many added talents, illustrating to all who knew him the possibilities of a character developed and refined by Christian example, by mental training, and by a conscientious and unselfish regard for truth and duty, and emphasizing the forceful power of educated silence, simplicity of life, and modest demeanor, accompanied by intellectual vigor.

NORMAN WILLIAMS,
E. B. McCAGG,
MURRY NELSON,
Committee.

Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1888.

Whereas:—It has pleased Divine Providence to call from our number and to remove from the midst of our community, General John L. Thompson, who has, during the whole period of the existence of this

Association, been one of its most active members, and has filled the office of its president and the chairmanship of various important committees with marked ability and success; it is

Resolved, That in the death of General Thompson this Association has lost one of its most valued and beloved members and directors; one who has at all times, during the past fourteen years, been ready and willing to serve the public interests to the extent of his well recognized ability, and has done so without reference to his personal convenience and interests. As a member of this Executive Committee his counsel and advice were always sought among the first expedients, and his demise deprives us of a wise and prudent counselor, whose judgment has been our reliance in many cases of great difficulty,

Resolved, That we tender to the widow and family the expressions of our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement, and our regret for their irreparable loss.

Resolved, That the offices of the Association be closed on the day of General Thompson's funeral as a mark of respect to his memory; and that a copy of these resolutions, signed by the president and secretary, be given to his family.

FRANCIS B. PEABODY, President.

J. C. AMBLER, Secretary.

In Memoriam

ADOPTED BY THE CHICAGO EDISON COMPANY,
FEBRUARY 13TH, 1888.

"Men must endure
Their going hence, even as their coming hither;
Ripeness is all."

When the final summons came, our friend, General Thompson, responded, bringing his sheaves with him; the sheaves of a well spent life, the garnered harvest of an honorable professional and business toil, and his name will be remembered in the far distant future as one of the great characters of his time. He always used his influence to advance and perpetuate the best interests of his fellow men; we who have met him in business marts, will ne'er see his like again; and the state and city have met with a great loss. He was one that feared nothing, except to do wrong, and his heart was as great as the world, though there was no room in it for the memory of an injury. We all mourn his loss, but thank God that such a man has lived. While he was bold and fearless, he was as tender as a child. Let the summer flowers bloom and shed their fragrance on his grave; let the falling leaves of autumn sigh a requiem; let the vernal showers weep over his grave, and when seasons come and go and go and come, let them point to the hallowed spot.

"The circle narrows as we go;
But only here;
Comrades in life to every heart most dear,
In the eternal realm we yet shall know
With a diviner knowledge than below."

"There is no death; what seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but the suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call death."

ERSKINE M. PHELPS,
J. W. DOANE,
EDSON KEITH,
Committee.

In Memoriam

ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY, OF CHICAGO.

The news of the unexpected and untimely death of General John L. Thompson, who has been since January 23rd, 1886, a director of this company, and a member of its Executive Committee, was heard by his associates here with sincere grief and sorrow. If we loved and respected him more, it is because we knew him better; but the whole community knew him as a gentleman at all times and places, of unquestioned integrity, high professional attainments, sound business judgment, and of few words, but which were always considerate and weighty. As first of the legal counsel of this company since its beginning, he was a firm reliance, and for all reasons and in all ways, we deplore his loss.

We recommend that this report be spread upon our minutes and a copy of the same mailed to the family of General Thompson.

Memorial

ADOPTED BY THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB, OF CHICAGO, AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 1888.

The life of General Thompson was a practical exposition of the purposes declared by the articles of association of the Union League Club, which are, among others, to defend and preserve the integrity of the Nation, to inculcate a higher appreciation of American citizenship, to aid in the enforcement of all laws enacted to preserve the purity of the ballot box, to resist corruption, and to promote honesty in office.

To say of one who, at the age of fifty-three years, has so acted as to be entitled to credit for having contributed in a conspicuous degree to the promotion of all these objects, is to mark him as one who has left the inheritance of a good name.

The breaking out of the war found the law student in Chicago. Patriotic impulse found prompt and resolute expression in enlistment. While the necessity continued, the service was given heartily, energetically and bravely.

When the war closed he returned to study, one of those to illustrate that the qualities of citizenship were not lost by life upon the battle-field.

He became a lawyer, well informed in the thought of his profession, prudent in counsel, clear in statement and forcible in argument. He was associated,

during an active period of more than twenty years, with societies or bodies having the good interests of the community in view. He aided, often with great self-sacrifice, efforts for reform in municipal and state administration.

Of the details of his useful life we have not space to write.

He was pre-eminently fair and just, without jealousies, giving to others often more than their due. Of him none will speak in the remembrance of the sting of biting criticism or sarcasm. All will recollect his manly character, albeit some-times concealed behind a reserve which did not trifle with friendship, and which preserved faith and honor.

Of this Club he was an earnest, hopeful, loyal supporter during its dark as well as its more prosperous days. In it he believed as an institution calculated in the highest degree to be useful, and, as some of us have heard from him, he looked for the day when it should be distinctly a reform club.

His last address, brief as it was, was thoughtful and full of wise counsel. He advised that the Club should not be allowed to drift into purely political seas.

His death, following so soon his inauguration, will keep from the Club information of the plans which, if not formed, were in his mind for the coming year, and which were suggested by long association with it, and the desire to advance its standard.

In order, therefore, to give expression, in such form as we may, where words fail, to our appreciation of his character and our sorrow for his loss, we do hereby adopt the foregoing memorial, and direct that it be spread upon the records of the Club; and further, it is

Resolved, That the President and Secretary be directed to send a copy of this memorial to his family.

GEO. W. SMITH,
ELBRIDGE G. KEITH,
J. MCGREGOR ADAMS,
L. L. COBURN,
FRANKLIN H. HEAD,
Committee.

Address

OF MR. FRANKLIN H. HEAD, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB, AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING.

There is no need, gentlemen of the Union League Club, that I should make formal announcement to you of the great calamity which has called us together to-night. As I sat in the church yesterday, I especially noted the appropriateness of the floral emblem which was forwarded on the part of this Club. Instead of being, as is often the case on such occasions, a splintered or broken column, it was a beautiful monument,

symbolizing, in most fitting fashion, the symmetry and completeness of the life of our lamented President.

At the threshold of his manhood, General Thompson, with thousands more of our young and heroic men, responded to the first call of President Lincoln for troops, and went forth to meet the blows and the bullets of those whose bullets and blows were aimed at the life of the Nation.

At the close of the war, in which he had rendered distinguished service, he returned to Chicago, and formed a business partnership with Mr. Norman Williams, which was one of the incidents merely of a friendship between these gentlemen which lasted through the period of their entire lives. For many years past you all know that General Thompson has stood among the leading members of the Chicago Bar. A great lawyer, gentlemen, ought to be one of the very best of men, and notwithstanding the depreciatory remarks which we are very apt to make about our legal brethren, he generally is. Almost all of us, at some time in our lives, have to place our interests wholly or in part in the hands of our attorneys, and it is very rarely that this trust is betrayed. General

Thompson, for many years past, has been in charge of great and momentous interests, and all those interests he has managed with conspicuous fidelity and constant ability.

I think it was Lord Coke that said that Themis was a jealous goddess, who would not that her votaries should worship at other shrines; but, notwithstanding this dictum, General Thompson, amid the cares of an active and increasing practice in his arduous profession, always found time to give attention and care to matters of public interest and to the promotion of the general good. In the "Loyal Legion," an association organized to perpetuate the memories and preserve the results of the war; in the "Citizens' Association," devoted to the procurement of good government for the city, and the promotion of needed municipal reforms; and in this Club, aiming to secure something the same results over a much wider field, General Thompson has rendered able and conspicuous service, and in each of these associations his ability and his faithfulness were recognized by the bestowal upon him of the highest honors in its gift.

But, gentlemen, standing here to-night with this

newly-made grave so near, we cannot but be conscious that it is not those with us here, who look simply at the public trusts and the great service of General Thompson, by whom he is most deeply mourned. The great weight of this calamity has fallen upon those who feel that, by the death of General Thompson, they have lost a dear and loving friend. A friend is the one immediate jewel of our souls, and in the rush and bustle of our Chicago lives, the hours that we can devote to friendship are as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. They are the consolations of our lives.

General Thompson was a man of many, many friends. While in the defense of the rights of a client or in upholding a principle which he believed to be correct, he was as a wall of adamant; yet, to the calls of friendship or of charity or of sorrow, he had a heart that was almost womanly in its tenderness and its constancy and its trust. Outside the immediate family of General Thompson, whose grief is too sacred for language, there are many men among the members of this Club and in this community, who feel that much of the light of their lives has gone out with the

passing away of this rare spirit. But the friends of General Thompson—and this means almost as many people as his acquaintance numbered—have this consolation, that, while they might reasonably have hoped for him greater fullness of days; have hoped that many years of cheerful toil in his chosen profession would be his, as well as those years of honored ease which are the fitting crown of a laborious life, yet, when they consider that life is measured not by years but by accomplished ends, it is their consolation that in this life which I have briefly outlined, and which was the life of an earnest patriot, of a wise and sagacious counsellor, of an upright and honorable citizen, and of a true and loyal friend, in the record of such a life, there is nothing that is fragmentary, nothing that is incomplete.

Address

OF MR. GEORGE F. BISSELL AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Club:—In speaking to the report which has been offered, and which I do further most heartily second, let me say that if the tribute I may bring to the memory of our deceased President be a very humble and a very unworthy one, I trust you will believe that it comes of a deep and earnest sincerity, and is prompted by a warm admiration for the nobility of his character.

When we contemplate such a life as that, whose going out has brought us all as mourners here to-night; when we think how quietly and how unobtrusively he moved among us, how retiring was his character and bearing; when we remember how keen and discriminating was his sense of propriety; how choice, how few, and how well-chosen were the words which he always uttered when he sought to express his views among us, one feels oppressed how to form expressions that shall be suitable and fitting for an occasion like this,—such expressions as he would utter if he were present, or that he would like to listen to if a friend

of his instead of himself formed the subject of this memorial meeting. If his voice could direct, we know very well how it would be. He would say, let no word of eulogy or praise be spoken for me; let my life and deeds, let my character, let my bearing among my fellow men, let my services for society and for my country be the only voices that shall be heard. And, gentlemen, he should, and he could well afford to abide by this test. His life was a more eloquent eulogy than any of us can utter, or than any friend of his can speak. But in this day and age, when we see so much of tinsel and show, so much of obtrusive self-seeking, so much that is hollow and insincere, we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to younger men, the foundations of whose characters are now being laid, we owe it to the community in which General Thompson lived, and which he has served for so many years, that the pure gold of his character should not be laid away without its lustre being seen for our encouragement and our instruction.

Of General Thompson as a soldier, it is not mine to speak. Let some brother soldier, who, like him, responded to his country's call, who, like him, felt the

shock of battle and the thrill of victory, discharge this duty; only such an one can speak in fitting words of the devotion, the patriotism he exhibited, and the sacrifice he made, when he went forth to rescue his country in her hour of peril. As for me, let me stand in humility in the presence of such sacrificing service, content only to touch the hem of his garment.

As a lawyer I may not speak of General Thompson. Let those who met him in professional walks, who knew with what earnestness and sincerity and fidelity he met every requirement, with what ability and with what constant attention to all interests he discharged every obligation as a lawyer; how he dignified and lifted his profession; let those who have thus known him speak of him as a lawyer.

I may not cross the sacred portals of his home, and speak of the pure domestic life that reigned there. For that were an intrusion upon holy memories with which no stranger may intermeddle. I cannot speak of him as the *intimate* friend; but I can speak of him,—and it is enough for me,—as a broad-minded, courteous, cultured gentleman, a man whom it was a pleasure to meet, and with whom it was an

honor to be associated. His face, as I need not tell you, was an open book, in which all could read the sturdy manliness of his character. I can speak of him as the genial and winsome friend, whom it was a delight to be with, and with whom companionship and intercourse was ever pleasant. We can all remember the smile, which seemed to be perennial, that was ever on his face, the smile of friendship with which he always met his friends. I can speak of him as a public-spirited, self-sacrificing, unselfish citizen, who appreciated the duties, the honors, and the obligations of citizenship; who knew what our institutions had cost, and who was ready himself to sacrifice time, money, ease, comfort, anything to promote the best interests of society. And I may speak of him as the model man,—genial, courteous, kind, even-tempered, gentle, considerate, magnanimous and generous-hearted. General Thompson met every requirement of a public-spirited and unselfish citizenship. He was a politician in the highest and best sense of the term; he was not like some carpet knights that we meet, who are always prating about the corruption of politics, but who are never seen mingling with politics,

who are never seen at a ward meeting, or a primary election place. General Thompson attended to all the humbler duties in political life, as well as the higher, and he carried with him in every place the purity of character and the rectitude of conduct which characterized him in all the relations of life. I remember with a great deal of distinctness what I am confident was his first public utterance before the Club. It was, comparatively speaking, in its early history, when we could lay claim to no considerable prestige either as to members or influence. At one of our regular meetings when some matter of public interest was under consideration, he arose and said that he was attracted to this organization because in its principles, in its aims, and in the character of its membership, he saw *great capacities for usefulness to society and to this city*. I consider this finely illustrative of his character. No one prized the friendships he found here more than he; yet such was the dominating purpose of his life to serve his fellow men, that his desire to be useful was paramount to every other, and was the controlling consideration which colored his acts and his associations.

This Club, in the death of General Thompson, has met with a very sore loss. Only those who have been associated with him, who know with what patience, what fidelity, and what interest he has labored to promote its welfare; who know how wise and prudent have been his counsels, how safe his judgment and how jealously he has guarded its honor, can appreciate this loss. It is hard to give up such lives. When we think of what there is to be done around us, how few there are that are prudent and safe as guides, how few there are that are willing to give their services freely and unselfishly to the public, and when we think how many wrecks there are about us that are simply burdens upon society, it is hard, I say, to give up such lives, and the old words with their apparent truthfulness are forced upon us: "The good die first, while those whose hearts are dry as summer dust burn to the socket." But, gentlemen, let it not be ours to murmur or complain; rather be it ours to nerve ourselves anew and dedicate ourselves anew to the uses of society, each one in his own and proper accustomed walk. Rather be it ours to treasure the sublime faith that believes and trusts that in

the counsels of the Almighty dispenser of human events there are no mistakes; and let us rejoice that a life so grandly illustrative of a pure and holy patriotism, of a chivalrous friendship, of a high-minded, unselfish citizenship, and of a modest yet noble manhood, was spared to us so long.

Address

OF MR. MURRY NELSON AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: — I thank you for the opportunity of saying a word on this occasion. It occurs to me that it seldom falls to the lot of the ordinary business man and merchant to make addresses on occasions of this sort, or, perhaps, to pay that attention to the departure of his fellow man which he ought, in justice to the living. This Club seems to afford the opportunity, and to be peculiarly fit in that regard for such men as I.

Mr. President, I dare not trust myself, for the occasion, to speak as I usually do, off-hand, and I will, therefore, read a few sentences.

To my mind, General John L. Thompson was one of the wisest men in this community, but his work and his memory will come into my mind as a lawyer and a citizen, doing his whole duty to the State, rather than a soldier and a statesman, in which capacity others knew him better, and are in every way better qualified to speak. As a man and a neighbor, my adviser and attorney during the most critical period of my commercial career, I knew him. I valued him and loved him. Therefore, I speak advisedly when I say he was a wise man. I have come in contact with the active business men of this city for over thirty years, have been familiar with the causes and conditions which have created a great city here, and brought so many men together; but he was the peer of them all. He was a well-balanced man, perfectly poised, knew no fear, was without vanity, despised pretense, equally indifferent to the blandishments or suggestions of power or profit, standing firm in his place. The love of family, his duty to his clients, the responsibilities of citizenship, the interests of the Club, and the interests of the whole city as represented in the Presidency of the

Citizens' Association, the office of Alderman, or whatever else of public or private duty, all pivoted on him with that unerring certainty that he would stand firm for the right and wisest action for the greatest good to the greatest number. His infinite patience was the feature of his character which most impressed itself on me. His ability to listen to the wildest talk and gesticulation, or the most plausible and persuasive arguments; his ability to quietly remove the straw and sift the chaff, and arrive at the kernel and best meat of any and all questions, to my mind was an inspiration. He carried this intellectual strength without pride, without arrogance, meeting and treating all with such gentleness and sweetness of temper as characterizes the gentleman and large-minded man everywhere. Such traits can but commend themselves to our best judgment, our kindest memory and our records. He died at the high noon of his usefulness, pleasantly as he had lived, "like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams." We may not mourn for him, however sad and regretful for ourselves. Character survives. Goodness lives.

Address

OF JUDGE RICHARD S. TUTHILL, AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Union League Club,—I do not know that ever in my life I received a more sudden and severe blow than I did when the boy came to my office the other day with a letter from General Smith, asking me to come here and attend the memorial meeting of General Thompson. I could not realize it; I do not realize it yet, that this man, this good man, this brother and friend of all of us, has gone, and that we shall never see him or hear his voice again. But so it is, he is gone. He fell, probably as he would have chosen to fall, as a soldier falls when the bullet strikes him on the battle-field. There was no pain, I suppose; there was no prolonged suffering; there was no anxiety for the future, for he knew as we know, that whatever there is beyond our sight, whatever life there is beyond this, such men as General John L. Thompson will be needed there, as they were needed here, and that they will be doing the great work for which

human life, I conceive, was created, so long as life in that world endures.

I did not know General Thompson during the war; I knew him after I came to Chicago to live. I became first acquainted with him in the Chicago Bar Association, and came to know him well, and to have a somewhat intimate association with him when he was elected to the Reform Council of 1875, I at that time being connected with the Law Department of the City. He was a leader in that Council. They took hold of the government of the City of Chicago when it was in mortal peril, when financial disaster and ruin stared the municipality in the face, when corrupt men by corrupt practices had well nigh ruined this great city. He was elected by the people of the old Third Ward to the Council, and they were almost inspired when they selected him, induced thereto by no seeking of his, for he never sought office, and he never tried to get position. I say, when the people of that old Third Ward, as if inspired to it, elected him to their Council, they builded better than they knew, for in that Reform Council he was a leading spirit. He led the Reform Aldermen in the

severe, prolonged and bitter contests in the old Council Chamber, and he led them as he led his regiment in battle, without bravado, but with a braveness, a determination, an intelligence which carried every thing before him. I sat there night after night and witnessed the contests, and saw General Thompson, who had been chosen by the Aldermen to lead them, to be their spokesman and their voice; I saw him as calm and unperturbed as he was the other night when this Club honored itself in conferring its greatest honor upon him. He did not lose his self possession for one moment, but persistently, unfalteringly, determinedly, he fought the fight as he had planned to fight it, and gained the great victory which redeemed our city from the financial ruin which, as I have said, had about engulfed it. I knew him from that time very well. I met him often at his office; I met him on the street; I met him at the meetings of a soldiers' society, the Loyal Legion, and whenever I met him I felt that I was meeting a man who was absolutely true, without a single point in his character that ever I discovered, or heard anybody else say they had discovered, that was not al-

together admirable. It was a pleasure and an honor to know such a man. As I have said, I had not the honor of being with him in the army, but I have talked with others who did know him when he was a soldier. I know that General Sheridan, who was his commanding officer, trusted and confided in him in those days, in his boyish days, as it were, when he was with his regiment in battle, as we here in Chicago have so often confided and trusted our interests to him, and that trust and that confidence of his superiors was never disappointed. With no blowing of trumpets, with no sounding of cymbals, he went forward in the war to do his duty without fear, absolutely without fear, and without thinking or caring for the consequences to himself, determined only to do his full duty as a patriotic American. Now it was a good deal to do what he did in the war. He would not speak of it himself, and would not like to have even his best friends say what he really sacrificed when he took his life in his hands and went into the army to fight for his country. He did not think he deserved any credit for it; he thought he was doing what he had to do, as he felt, and he did

it without hesitation. I have spoken of General Thompson and used the words, "an American patriot." Those words should be written on his monument, for that is what he was. Descended from an ancestry of patriots, men who, during the war of the Revolution, did what our friend did during the last war, took their lives in their hands to battle for their country, he was worthy of them. It seemed to be his life, this sentiment of patriotism, this feeling of what he owed to the community where he lived and the country in which his home was. So we find him, when he came back from the army, taking his position at once in civil life to continue the struggle for good government, and good, wholesome laws, and for honest execution of those laws. I cannot think of a single movement in Chicago, since the war, for the better government of the city, in which General Thompson has not taken an active, unpretentious but powerful part. I remember, after the anarchist troubles here, after the Haymarket riot and murder, when all men were alarmed, a few gentlemen got together and discussed the matter, and concluded that inasmuch as the socialistic newspapers were scat-

tering broadcast over the land their printed matter, it would be a good idea to have some organization to counteract them, to issue publications of a different character to counteract their pernicious teachings. A number of gentlemen, all of whom, I think, had been in the army, got together and talked the matter over, and formed an organization, and it is alive yet, although, owing to the fact that the man upon whom we had relied to do the active work had at that time been called to another field and has not been with us, there has not been very much done for the last year; but it did for a time a good deal of work. It published quite a number of pamphlets, and did a good deal of work through the press, and planted seeds which should fructify and produce fruits in the future. When these gentlemen got together, without any discussion as to who should be President, all said with one accord that General Thompson was the man. I met him very frequently in reference to the affairs of that association. It was called the "Patriots' League." I have talked with him in his office and in my office about it, and the work it was organized to do, and I was impressed every time I

talked with him with the burning sense of duty that seemed always present with him, as to what could be done to counteract this pernicious doctrine that was spreading through and poisoning the community; and in poor health as he was, and overburdened with work as he was, he was willing to sacrifice his time, himself, to work and labor for the purpose of making that organization a success, and it was one of the disappointments of his life, I believe, that it did not do more work than it did. So it was at all times and everywhere, wherever you met him. He represented great corporate interests. His firm was one of the leading law firms of the city, and had important corporate interests always in its charge, but no man, no lawyer, no judge, and no citizen ever heard it said, I am convinced, that that firm would for one moment consider a proposition of gaining their ends by any except honorable methods. I do not believe there was enough property or money in the world to have seduced General Thompson to do a dishonorable or unmanly thing. Now, these are simply facts. He was in all respects an honorable man. The poet says:

"The fear o' hell's a hangman's whip,
To haud the wretch in order;
But where you feel your honor grip,
Let that aye be your border;
Its slightest touches, instant pause,
Debar aside pretences;
And resolutely keep its laws,
Uncaring consequences."

That was General Thompson. He was a man of high honor and high integrity, high ability, high character in every respect. He is gone and he has left the place vacant here. It is hard to tell when a man will come along who can fill it. It is hard to see how the place of such a man as General Thompson can be filled. That is a good deal to say. Usually men, when they die, drop into eternity as pebbles into the ocean,—for a moment there is a disturbance on the surface, and then they are gone and forgotten; but a man who has lived the life that General Thompson did, who has done the good in the world that he has done, will enjoy an immortality in the memory of mankind. His memory will be handed down as a precious heirloom and as a legacy for those who come after him. It is a good thing for us to have known such a man; it is a good thing for us to have had him here in the Club. I am

happy, and thankful to the committee that suggested that he should be made President of this organization, that he was made its President, as he was, by its unanimous voice. It has been a great satisfaction to me, as I know it has been to all of you, that we thus expressed to him, before he died, the estimation in which we, as a body, held him. It is pleasant to reflect that we did, before he went away from us, tell him how we loved him and how we honored him. His example is something that is very precious, very valuable to us. We cannot make too much of it. The community is better for being told of his merits; the children that are growing up should have the career of such men pointed to, and they should be invited to emulate his life and his example. I hope that some one here will to-night speak of him who can tell us something about his early life, about his boyhood, about his career before he went into the army.

I am glad, as Mr. Nelson said, to have had the privilege of being with you here, and of expressing my estimate of General Thompson. I believe I have spoken the sentiment of this Club in what I have, in halting phrase, given as my estimate of this man.

Address

OF MR. CHARLES S. HOLT, AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—I trust I shall not weary you, but I, too, count it a high privilege to speak to such men of such a man. We are not here to-night to do full justice to his well-rounded character and career. No man who knew him well enough to be qualified for that task would dare trust himself to undertake it in these first few days of sorrow over his loss. But I think it is well for us to meet and to speak in such fragmentary way as we can of the man whom we knew, and of those qualities which made us love him while he was yet with us, and which have laid upon our hearts the burden of an irreparable loss now that he is gone.

Others have told you and may yet tell you of him in the relations where they knew him best, as soldier, patriot, citizen, advocate. My memories of him grow out of the intimate daily intercourse and companionship of twelve years, in a life which has always seemed to me more like that of a family than a mere business

association, covering all of my professional life and more than half of his.

He had all the ordinary standard virtues—if I may call them so,—those things which we expect in every honorable man,—the current coin of every-day manhood,—honesty, truth, purity, courage, kindness; and he had them in a high degree. But these alone would not justify our being here to-night, or explain the demonstrations of affection and regard which we have seen during the past few days. It is no small thing for a man who has lived in such a place as Chicago to be able to say, when the record is closed, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith." And still, thank God, this is not yet rare enough to call for these conspicuous marks of appreciation. General Thompson was more than this; he was a rare man; rare in his natural endowments, rare in his splendid training, rarest of all, perhaps, in the character by means of which he turned his endowments and his training to the pursuit of such high ends.

I would like to speak for a little, from the recollection of these years, of three or four characteristics

which seem to me fundamental in the man, and which stand out in my memory as the things which made him what he was. I don't know whether it will especially interest you, but it certainly does me, to find that the things which have impressed me have equally impressed men who have looked at him from other points of view, and come in contact with him in other relations, so that the precise points which I intended to emphasize have been alluded to by other men here who have known him in different associations.

The first thing I think of, in speaking of General Thompson, is the *calmness*,—the steady balance and poise of his character, to which Mr. Nelson has alluded. He was not one of those men who rise on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things; his life was not built on its own ruins; there was no war in his career between yesterday and to-day. He had no need to spend the present in apologizing for or correcting the mistakes of the past. Rather, it always seemed to me, that he made to-day's success the foundation for to-morrow's higher success, and so fulfilled the scripture that is written of those who go,

not from weakness, but "from strength to strength." His life was like a river, calm, quiet, never impetuous but never sluggish, moving on, broadening and deepening as if it were fed from inexhaustible fountains.

This calmness gave a splendid continuity to his life, so that at every step he had the benefit of every step he had taken before. Thus he had wonderful command of his resources. He knew how to fit past experience to present emergency. He knew how to make the acquisitions of former years contribute to the immediate needs of every new situation.

It also gave him a great quietness of demeanor, which was a true index of the quietness of his spirit, —unruffled, calm, never excited, and yet going on with such persistence, with such steadiness of purpose, that he always, it almost seemed to me, accomplished his ends.

It gave him, too, a large tolerance and forbearance in dealing with others, so that he could listen to suggestions, upon which he seldom failed to improve, and from which he could sift that which was real and valuable with a directness, decision and

precision which left no appeal; and yet he was not dogmatic. Such a man is rare.

Again, General Thompson was pre-eminently a *modest* man. We have a proverb that "actions speak louder than words," by which we generally imply some contradiction between what a man is and what he claims to be. To General Thompson the proverb applies with a lofty significance, for with him performance always outran profession; his achievements were out of all proportion to the display he made about them. He was not a man to tell you what he had done, still less what he was going to do; so that, as was said in the church yesterday, we knew of his deeds because they existed, not because he talked about them. This is well illustrated in what has been said of his unwillingness to talk about his war experiences. There was no man who took a keener enjoyment in the reminiscences of the war than he. I remember he used to tell of the times when he went to the soldier's reunions in old New England,—how the morning light would find the comrades still sitting on the old hotel porch listening to the stories of army experiences; yet I have it from

those who were participants in those scenes, that though he would drink in what others said, he was too modest to tell of his own exploits. He never pushed himself forward. He was absolutely incapable of doing anything for the sake of the reputation or prominence it might give him. He was the last man in the world to seek an office, as is shown by the fact that most of the offices that came to him involved more labor than honor. They were taken from a sense of duty. And yet it is proper to say to you, gentlemen, what I think you all know, that when without his seeking there were shown to him marks of regard and appreciation; when he was made to feel, as he was especially in the last years of his life, and in the last days of his life, that men did regard him with affection and did look upon his character as good and noble, no man valued such expressions more than he.

Some of the most intimate and personal conversations I had with him in the later times related to the honor which was conferred upon him by this Club. As he weighed the matter in his mind, as one reason and another suggested itself to him for accept-

ing or declining the office, one thought was often expressed: "It is an honorable position; if the way is open for a man to take it, it is too honorable a position to throw away." I venture to say, gentlemen, that none of you doubted the sincerity of those ardent words, more glowing, more emphatic, more extravagant almost than any I ever heard him utter before, in which he expressed his gratitude to the Club for his unanimous election as President.

Then, General Thompson was a singularly *patient* man,—patient for endurance, patient for action. What his patience was for endurance only those can understand who knew what he had to endure,—the daily irritation of business life, the consciousness of enfeebled health, the eccentricities of clients, the professional defeats, which were all the harder to bear when he felt that they came from the infirmity of the Court rather than the weakness of the cause. All these he met with composure and fortitude. I never knew a man so much tried who gave way so seldom even in the slightest degree. It was a proverbial expression in the office for years when anything especially annoying occurred, that General Thompson's

face turned mahogany-color, but in no other way would he betray his annoyance. He was one of the most composed and self-controlled of men.

And for action, how patient! No pains seemed too great in the preparation of a case. He could not bear to go before a Court with a half-digested proposition of law, and in all the bustle and hurry of Chicago life and an active practice, he always took time to be thorough. Then, when reverses came, he was patient to gather up the fragments of a shattered case and make what he could out of it. I have seen him when responsibilities were thrown upon him by men, clients and others, who failed to furnish him the means wherewith to meet these responsibilities; and instead of sitting down and complaining, he would give his best thought and effort to make what might be made out of the situation, and would say, as he often has said: "It is better to *try* to do things than to spend your time in making excuses for not doing them."

How tender he was toward the incompetency and inexperience of his subordinates, I may not trust myself here to say. If anyone doubted the kindness of

his heart or the sincerity of his sympathy and affection, those who have been in that relation to him can testify to the mistake.

Then there was another quality, or group of qualities,—a disinterestedness, an unselfishness, a devotion to high ideals,—which, perhaps, I may call by the common name of *conscientiousness*, which seemed to me to be the groundwork of General Thompson's character. They showed in his private practice. No man was ever more faithful to his clients,—faithful to their wishes when he could be, faithful to their real interests against their wishes sometimes, because he was faithful above and beyond the temporary advantages of his clients to the cause of justice and right. He was a man who would not allow himself to be seduced into trifling with the law or taking liberties with truth, even under the stress of temptation that came from seeing others do so with impunity and success. He had an extraordinary directness in dealing with cases. Men are suspected sometimes of inflating their cases for the purpose of making more out of them, for the fees they may bring, or for the sake of popularity or notoriety. There was

nothing of that kind with him. He spoke directly; he was candid in counsel; he discouraged litigation. He only took a case and followed it through with interest and heart when in his soul he believed he was subserving the cause of right. The calmness and patience and clearness of vision I have spoken of gave him a certain dispassionateness, which allowed him to see the strength of his opponent's case as clearly as his own, and this was one of the sources of his professional success,—for I suppose it will not be thought indelicate even for me to speak of him as a successful lawyer. I always thought he would have made a magnificent judge. He had a faculty of sifting truth from plausible error which would have fitted him for a high position on the bench.

He hated trickery. I have said he was tolerant, patient, calm, and yet all these qualities deserted him when it came to a question of sneaking sharp practice. The only times when he allowed himself to speak in unmeasured terms of severity were when such questions as that were under consideration. And almost as strongly as he hated absolute and positive dishonesty he hated another bad practice,

which may command the support of some reputable names,—the practice of trying a case by public outcry, of transferring the controversy from the courts to the newspapers. He had a supreme contempt for what he derisively called "Bofunkum," by which he meant, whatever was said or done for effect, whatever was insincere, whatever was put on, and was not genuine to the heart's core. By as much as he was true, direct and straightforward himself, he despised the opposite of these things in others.

His conscientiousness showed itself not only in his private practice, but, perhaps, even more conspicuously in his public service. It is not necessary for me to speak in detail of this, for it has been dwelt upon more fully and more satisfactorily here to-night than I can do it. I will only say, as a personal recollection, that my acquaintance with him began just about the time of his election to the Council, of which Judge Tuthill has spoken,—an office which, I may say with authority, was distasteful to him; yet he accepted it and labored in it with faithfulness, zeal, even enthusiasm, because he thought he could thereby serve the cause of good government. From

that day to the day of his death I think there was no time in which he was not burdened with public responsibility of a somewhat similar character, and I will only say one thing, of which I can speak from personal knowledge, that to all these questions of public interest he gave just as conscientious, earnest, painstaking and laborious thought as to the cases in which large pecuniary interests and large compensation were involved. But in this place, certainly, it cannot be necessary to speak in detail of General Thompson's public activities. He felt, I am sure, that this Club was one of the most important, if not the most important of them all, and I think you, gentlemen, meant him to feel, by your votes last Tuesday week, that, in a certain sense, without disparaging the services of others, the Union League Club, with its splendid record of public enterprise, its noble building, its promising Art Association, and all its present strength and bright prospects, is in a large measure his monument.

Suffer me, before I sit down, to correct, in a word, an impression which has gone abroad through the newspapers, and which has brought pain to many

hearts, that his death was caused by the urgent pressure of preparation for a particular case. Aside from the fact that for the last few years, since his health became somewhat impaired, every effort has been made to spare him the annoying details of practice, and aside also from the fact that he was not a man who, in the preparation and litigation of his cases, ever did worry himself into sickness, by reason of the calmness and quietness I have spoken of, the truth is, that throughout the last week of his life, he was engaged during most of the business hours in an examination before a Master in Chancery, where, though constantly present and watchful, his duties did not require him to take any active or exciting part. The testimony of his family confirms that of the men who saw most of him in business relations during that week, that it was a quiet, easy, happy week for him. Happy in the honor conferred upon him by this Club, happy in the social relations of his life, happy in the consciousness of the affection and regard of his fellow men, he lay down to rest, and the messenger came.

So we take leave of our friend. Thoughtfully,—

thoughtfully,—sadly, we watch his form fade in the distance;—thoughtfully, sadly, yet hopefully.

Somewhere is comfort, somewhere faith,
Though thou in outer dark remain;
One sweet, sad voice ennobles death,
And still for eighteen centuries saith
Softly: "Ye meet again."

And as we turn away from watching him, and are carried back into the whirl of daily activity, it is with the steadfast purpose that our lives shall be better because of his life; that by the help of God we will be stronger, truer men, because we have known him.

Why make we moan
For loss that doth enrich us yet
With upward yearnings of regret?
Bleaker than unmossed stone
Our lives were, but for this immortal gain
Of unstilled longing, and inspiring pain.
As thrills of long-hushed tone
Live in the viol, so our souls grow fine
With keen vibrations from the touch divine
Of noble natures gone.

Address

OF MR. E. F. CRAGIN AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,— When death has come into the family, and the friends have returned from performing the last sad rites, they meet around the hearthstone in the evening and talk of the virtues of him who has gone. So, it seems to me, we are doing to-night. We meet and speak of the departed, our honored and loved President, and we all agree that General Thompson has been foremost in keeping before this Club its highest ideal. I have thought over the membership since its organization, and I cannot think of any one who has been his equal in this regard. He has not infrequently said he wished the name of the Club was the Reform Club, to keep it true to the highest ideal of usefulness. As the preceding speakers have said, however, we think of him to-night more as our friend than as our President. We shall ever count it one of the blessings of our lives that we have known him. Why do we so love him? These testimonies to his characteristics explain it. I think his strong qualities have been

named, but I wish to emphasize his lack of egotism and his unselfishness.

I never knew any one who said so little about himself. I remember a night with him a few years ago. In the afternoon we climbed Pike's Peak together, and spent the night upon its summit. There was no sleep for us, and he talked to me somewhat freely of certain incidents in his life. I will mention here one that some of his old army friends will remember. He was under General Custer, who had with him four or five regiments of cavalry. As they were riding along, Custer saw, a long distance up the hill, a battery of the enemy. With his usual impetuosity, he dashed ahead to capture it, but the position was too strong, and he was forced back. General Thompson was in command of one or two regiments in reserve. Seeing Custer in retreat, he ordered the fences by the roadside torn down, and moved his cavalry to one side. Custer swept by him vainly endeavoring to stop the retreat and make a stand. He waved his sword to General Thompson, and Thompson cried: "We'll whip them yet!" Then, paying no regard to the Federal troops or their pursuers, General Thomp-

son, keeping out of the road, moved his command behind the woods and fences through a ravine. Thus he came suddenly upon the battery and easily captured it, and sent up a cheer that was heard by Custer and his men. This enabled Custer to rally his troops and turn upon the enemy, compelling them to retreat. Meanwhile General Thompson charged down the road, and the Confederates, being caught between him and Custer, were defeated and captured.

General Thompson had many army incidents and experiences worth telling, and he was an extensive traveler; but one had to learn these things from his acquaintances and friends. The combination of strength and gentleness in his character was remarkable. I never knew any one to question his firmness, or any one who knew him well to question his gentleness. He was "firm as a rock, and gentle as a woman." I wish that we could have had some parting words from him. Would they not have been: "Remember the best things, remember the enduring things?" We soon shall pass away, we soon shall be forgotten. Strive for the enduring things, and look for help to

Him who was laid in the tomb and came back to life, and who called Himself the Resurrection and the Life."

Address

OF HON. EUGENE CARY, AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Club,—Although I have not prepared words, now that opportunity is offered I should feel that I was doing my own feelings an injustice if I did not say one word over the grave of General Thompson. We were members of the same Grand Army Post; we were members also of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and I know how the General loved the memories of the old time, and the most sacred tear that I have to shed is because of these old memories. Some of you know, and some do not, how, as age creeps upon us, these bonds strengthen and bind us together.

I was nearer to General Thompson during a part of his career, I mean his civil official career, than

any other person who survives him. I represented with him the Third Ward of this City in the Common Council, and for one entire year I sat by his side. I know with what intelligence, what zeal and what absolute fidelity he devoted his service to the public. He was thoroughly conscientious, thoroughly painstaking, always faithful, striving for the best public interest. He never was a self-seeker; he never stopped to enquire how any act would affect his reputation or standing, but was quite content to take just such position as his merits entitled him to occupy. As in social life he was a model gentleman, in official life he was an example of the highest integrity and faithfulness.

Address

OF MR. L. W. McCONNELL, AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The estimates of General Thompson's character to which we have listened seem to me very just, and without the extravagance of expression so often resorted to on such

occasions. Permit the few words I shall say to take a more personal tone.

Growing up in Chicago from boyhood, I was familiar with General Thompson's career, before and after the war, but did not enjoy his friendship until about 1881, when he became a member of this Club.

The first year he served as a member of the Committee on Guests and Receptions, adding much to our pleasure by his tact and genial manners. The second year he was Chairman of the Committee on Membership, and maintained so high a standard that the rejected applications outnumbered the admissions. The condition of the finances at that time was such that this action required a high order of courage. The third year he became our First Vice-President, and might at any time afterward have had the highest office in our gift; but so great was the modesty of the man, so considerate was he of the rights and desires of others, that he could not be persuaded to accept the Presidency until the time came when it did not conflict with the wishes of another.

As an after-dinner speaker, General Thompson was, I think, the brightest and best we have ever

heard in this Club. He made an address, some two or three years since, at the installation of our officers, which seemed absolutely perfect, and without one surplus word.

But to know General Thompson, one should have met him with a few friends, after the business of the evening had been concluded, in a quiet corner. As easily as the burgundy gurgled from the bottle would come the apt quotation, the appropriate little story, the flash of wit which never left a sting. In such moments one appreciated how lovable and clubable General Thompson was.

I loved him from the bottom of my heart, and no member can regret his loss more than I.

Address

OF MR. GEORGE DRIGGS, AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,— I wish my lips could speak the emotions of my heart in the presence of this sorrow. Many of you here assembled knew him longer than I, but none of you respected

him more. Many of you older ones had such relations with him as afforded you opportunity to observe those splendid traits which he possessed, that were shown only in times of anxiety and danger, and with which the public and his newer acquaintances could not be familiar.

But you, old friends, do not stand alone by the side of this new-made grave, for I believe that in this membership there was no man who more fully represented the highest and best ideas of those who have joined the Club since 1885. He was an ideal President for the young men of this Club,—the men who must come forward when the shadows grow long upon the hillside and the evening comes to you.

He represented, indeed, what was best and highest in the purposes of all who take an active, fervent interest in the public policy of the Union League.

What a grand character! Courageous and modest, aggressive and fair, intelligent and unpretentious, tolerant of others' views, but with opinions of his own which he dared to express, for he had not, as I believe, a symptom of hypocrisy in his splendid organization. He was an honest man. Great praise, Mr.

Chairman: it has all been given him. It was all deserved.

Remarks

OF MR. JUSTICE HARLAN, OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, FEB. 22D, 1888, AT A MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

Mr. President,—Before making direct response to the toast just announced, allow me to say that I appreciate the great loss this Club has sustained in the death of the distinguished gentleman who was its President—distinguished, not only because of his exceptionally brilliant services as a soldier and officer of the Union Army during the late civil war, but also because of the high position he attained among you as a member of his chosen profession. But more than all the military and civil honors which General Thompson won, he was an honest man, who hated devious ways and questionable methods. Under all circumstances he was the true gentleman. Let me say of him that no one ever stood before me, in a court of justice, in whose integrity of mind and heart I had more confidence.

Memorial Minute

PRESENTED BY MR. CHARLES S. HOLT, BEFORE THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION, AT ITS MEMORIAL SERVICES, DECEMBER 22D, 1888.

In a world where most of us, in our hurry and good nature, are lazily ready to take men's own estimate of themselves, it is easy for enterprising mediocrity to push itself into transitory fame, and secure eloquent obituary notices in the newspapers. It is less common for a strong man to be so genuinely modest that his very modesty is the crown of his strength, and one of his conspicuous titles to lasting remembrance.

For this, if for nothing else, John Leverett Thompson well deserves that we who have enjoyed with him the intimacy of a common profession should place on record our tribute to his memory. Born in New England in 1835, of Puritan stock and amid surroundings of refinement, educated in the colleges of his own country and in the universities of Europe, he came to Chicago in 1858, after some study at Eastern law schools, and began his more specific preparation for the practice of his profession in the

office of Scammon, McCagg & Fuller. After an interval which many men would have thought sufficient for a finished legal education, Thompson, with his passion for thoroughness, was still at the student's desk when the guns at Sumter broke the Nation's anxious silence. How promptly he responded to his country's call, how efficiently he served in all grades from private to brigadier, what skill and devotion he showed during all the years of the war, may be told elsewhere more fitly. With the return of peace he took his old place as a student, and it was not until more than a year afterward, in October, 1866, that he considered himself ready to begin the practice of law, and formed the partnership which continued to his death.

The record of his professional life is lacking in sensational incidents. Almost from the first he was concerned with cases of exceptional importance, but he disdained the reputation that might have come from advertising his achievements, and was content to do his work well, and to find his reward for past labor and success in increased power for new labor and higher success.

He was not by preference a jury lawyer, though when called upon to appear before a jury his straightforward simplicity and the transparent clearness of his thought and expression made him successful in that most uncertain branch of practice. It is doubtful whether he ever tried a criminal case, or an action for slander or personal injuries, in his life. The cases with which his name is associated are those involving property rights, and the work he most enjoyed and in which he appeared to the best advantage was the discussion of questions of law, and especially of equity, in oral argument or in writing. His style, alike in speaking and writing, was memorable for its luminous simplicity, elegance and directness. He probably never indulged in an epigram; he rarely allowed himself anything like a flight of eloquence; yet his briefs and oral arguments were not dry, but bright with the sunlight of common sense, and vital with the "brave old wisdom of sincerity."

He was a student of the law; he practiced a profession, not a trade. He took time to do thoroughly what he did at all, and so was a man

of reflection, but also of action; modest, but not morose; reserved, yet most genial. He was calm, candid, wise in counsel, loving justice and hating iniquity. His labors in the cause of good government were constant and self-denying, and they have not yet ceased to bear fruit. He found, as other men have found who were brave enough to make the experiment, that even in these degenerate days, modest strength does gain recognition, and simple devotion to duty wins the most enduring fame.

Perhaps nothing more true and comprehensive can be said of him than was said by a most distinguished judge: "No man ever stood before me in a court of justice in whose integrity of mind and heart I had more confidence."

Address

OF JUDGE B. D. MAGRUDER, OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS, BEFORE THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION, AT ITS MEMORIAL SERVICES, DECEMBER 22D, 1889.

The career of Gen. Thompson, in the field, at the bar, before the community, was such as to justify and deserve all that has been so appropriately

said of him. In him was fulfilled the sentiment of the words at the head of this program : *Semper fidelis.*

I venture to say that those members of the bar who may have happened, at different times during his life, to be opposed to Gen. Thompson in the trial of lawsuits, never felt that their friendly relations with him were any less cordial at the end of the litigation than they were at the beginning of it. The lawyer sometimes sympathizes with the irritated feelings of the client, whose cause he makes his own, and at the close of the contest not infrequently parts with his brother on the other side in an unpleasant, if not angry, frame of mind. So far as the attorneys engaged in it are concerned, the trial of a lawsuit ought to be nothing more than the presentation before an impartial tribunal of two different views of the law and facts involved in a particular transaction, with a fair and honest desire, and an equally fair and honest effort on both sides, to get at the real truth and justice of the matter. It was with such a view as this of its meaning and import that Gen. Thompson managed the litigation intrusted to him. He had the rare faculty of being spirited and zealous in the

defense of his client's rights, and, at the same time, courteous and gentlemanly in the treatment of his opponent.

He was possessed of great calmness in the presence of difficulties. This characteristic, always indispensable in leaders of men, is especially noticeable in the successful lawyer. The man who consults an attorney is generally in trouble, and uncertain as to the outcome of his difficulties. He finds relief in the trust which he reposes in his legal adviser—not merely trust in the latter's integrity and ability, but in the assurance which the counselor entertains of the strength of his own position. Nervousness and uncertainty as to results do not attract the troubled client. He feels secure when his adviser is firm in his convictions and imperturbable in his hopefulness of success. As the troops take courage from their commander's want of fear, so the vexed and worried litigant finds repose and rest in the fearless confidence which the well-posted lawyer manifests in the correctness of his own views. Undisturbed by the fear of defeat, Gen. Thompson inspired those who sought his professional aid with the spirit of his own

calm trustfulness. This power to allay the anxieties of those who ask for counsel is not the manifestation of self-importance or self-conceit. It is the product of careful investigation into the principles of the law, accompanied by a conscientious effort to apply those principles, and a manly self-reliance in predicting the results of their application.

The quiet and unassuming self-containment here spoken of, and which, in our generation, has found such conspicuous illustration in the character and career of General Grant, is always associated with modesty in speech and modesty in demeanor. How noticeable was this feature of Gen. Thompson's character. He rarely ever made any allusion to the fact of his service in the army, and still more rarely did he ever refer in any way to what or how much he himself did during the war for the Union. When the history of his life was made known after his death, many of those who had known him well were surprised at the extent and variety of his achievements as a soldier. He was content to let others discover and discuss the brilliant, though subordinate, part which he took in the struggle for the integrity of his country.

The same quietness of manner which was so observable in his private consultations and in his general bearing, also characterized his mode of addressing courts and juries. His public speech was never boisterous or noisy. His addresses were always conversational in tone, and none the less clear, cogent and effective on that account.

The American people have almost ceased to admire the orator who is florid and picturesque. We begin to realize more and more that public speaking is nothing more than a higher kind of conversation. A single listener expects to be talked to in a natural and easy tone of voice. A number of listeners will be more certainly entertained and more readily convinced by the same mode of address. The two orators who did more than any others during the years immediately preceding the late civil war to form and solidify public sentiment, the one at the north against slavery and the other at the south in favor of secession, were Wendell Phillips, of Massachusetts, and William L. Yancey, of Alabama. It is a singular fact that they resembled each other in their style of oratory. Neither of them, no matter

how vast the audience he addressed, seemed to raise his voice above the ordinary conversational tone, or to make use of any other or different intonation or inflection than that which the everyday man uses in talking with his neighbor.

The present generation, that delights to hear the easy and natural renditions of Joseph Jefferson, would hardly enjoy those rantings of Forrest and the elder Booth, which were wont to please our fathers so much in the years gone by. The highest compliment ever paid to David Garrick was the remark of the English countryman, who said, on hearing him at the play: "Why, anybody could talk like that."

This natural and unaffected style Gen. Thompson made use of in the delivery of his arguments. Though he spoke out of the sincerity of his heart and from the earnestness of his convictions, he was never known to beat the air or to make the welkin ring.

He was a man of intense patriotism. He was an American in the truest sense of that word, and believed in the institutions of his own country. *Non sibi, sed patriæ.* He took an interest in public affairs

and in the welfare of the community in which he lived. His course in this regard was a rebuke to many of us, and stands as an example worthy of imitation by us all. It is well known to his friends, that he oftentimes sacrificed his private inclinations and left the interests of his private business to others, in order to yield to the demands of what he considered his public duty. He united with and participated in the proceedings of a number of organizations which had for their objects the purification of elections, the enforcement of the laws, the stay of official corruption, the perpetuation of patriotic memories. Not long before his death he was interested in a movement for circulating among the ignorant foreigners, who are crowding into our city from other lands, books and pamphlets, which should furnish information in regard to our laws and institutions, and in regard to the nature and claims of American citizenship. If the Republic is to go down as being inadequate to the preservation of public order, prominent among the causes which will have hastened its downfall, will be the neglect and indifference of those who, immersed in the pursuit of

private gain, fail to perform their duties as citizens, and thereby suffer the interests of the people to fall into the hands of corrupt and designing men. Our departed friend realized the solemnity of his obligations to the commonwealth and endeavored faithfully to discharge those obligations.

But above all, and more important than all, Gen. Thompson was a man of sterling integrity. He had a high sense of honor. He scorned to do what was mean and unfair. He tried his cases upon their merits, and sought to take no advantage of quibbles or technicalities. According to his creed, courts were organized to do justice between man and man, and between man and the State. In his death we mourn the loss of a good citizen, a gallant soldier, an able and upright lawyer.

Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE FIRST NEW HAMPSHIRE CAVALRY VETERAN ASSOCIATION.

Whereas it has pleased the Divine Commander to remove Brig. Gen. John L. Thompson from earthly scenes and toils to the rest that remaineth for the

people of God, we, the survivors of his regiment on the battle-fields of the rebellion, desire to put on record our sense of his great worth as a man and a soldier, and of the loss we share in common with the community in his lamented death.

With the instinct of a true soldier he divined in advance where the real blow was to be struck, and, when the moment came, never failed to let the weight of his blow be felt. Clear in thought, prompt in action, brave and fearless, his trusted leadership inspired and brought forth the best qualities of valor and devotion in the brave troops he led to victory, or to honorable defeat, when they had braved and dared all that mortal men could dare and do.

Charged with the lives of his regiment on the field and in the camp, the officer became a friend, prompt to resent the petty tyranny of misused favors or to protect from the greater tyranny of neglect and indifference.

Unstinted in kindness, he won and held the esteem and friendship of officers and enlisted men. Able and faithful commander, with the right and ability to command, his carefulness for the comfort, the rights, and

the self-respect of his soldiers, joined the loyalty of love to the respect power always claims.

So feeling, we, his surviving comrades, desire, not in formal resolutions—too often insincere—but in simple words of truth, to express our honest sense of fealty and indebtedness to our late lamented commander.

E. H. Smith.
Chas. W. Stevens. } *Committee.*

Editorial

OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1888.

The whole community will be pained to learn of the sudden death of Gen. John L. Thompson, the prominent lawyer, who but a week ago was elected to the honorable position of President of the Union League Club, of which organization he had been a useful and influential member for seven years past. At the time of his election he appeared to be in robust health, but he rapidly succumbed to the prostration which was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel at the base of the brain.

Gen. Thompson was of New England birth and education, and was possessed of the best qualities that characterize the successful men of that section. Personally and professionally his record was one of extraordinary energy and unflinching integrity. He was an indefatigable worker at whatever he undertook, and his undertakings were always of a high and honorable character. His father and grandfather before him had been eminent lawyers, and he prepared himself to follow in their footsteps by unusually long and thorough study. He began the study of the law in 1855 and the outbreak of the war found him still a student, though well grounded in his profession by energetic application at Poughkeepsie, Harvard, and in some of the European schools. At the first note of the war, however, he dropped his studies. He was then in Chicago and enlisted here, but a year afterward returned East and served until the close of the war, first with the Rhode Island troops and afterwards with those of New Hampshire, his native State. His war record was a brilliant one. He was a participator in all the great battles of the army of the Potomac, and served under all its distinguished Generals, rising

from the ranks to the position of Brigadier-General by brevet. At the close of the war, or shortly afterwards, he began the active practice of his profession in Chicago, and for twenty-two years has held a prominent place at the bar. During that time he had also occupied other positions of public trust, and manifested his interest in all that goes for the good of the city by his prominent connection with the work of the Citizens' Association. When the retiring Board of Managers of the Union League Club last month named him as the candidate for its Presidency the nomination was accepted with enthusiasm by the entire membership. His election took place a week ago yesterday, and he presided at the annual meeting apparently in the best of health and spirits, little dreaming of the sad fate which was to overtake him a week later and cut him down in the very prime of his useful and busy life. His death will be mourned not only by the members of his club, who will miss his familiar face in their gatherings, but by the members of the profession with which he was so prominently identified, and by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances who had come to prize his sterling quali-

ties of citizenship, his broad culture as a scholar, and his high personal character as a gentleman. . His family will receive the sympathy of all who knew him personally or by report, for the blow which has fallen upon them with such suddenness and severity.

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